

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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~~SECONDARY INFORMATION~~

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1. The Soviets will do everything in their power to avoid a general war at this time since they believe that a war now would result in certain disaster for them. At the same time, the Soviets would fight if they thought there was no other way out of the situation; for example, if they believed that the United States was determined to have a local conflict develop into a general war. Also, the Soviet Union would not be able to back out of its mutual defense pact obligations with China, since this might lead to a loss of that country. The Soviets still believe, however, in the inevitability of war between them and the West, feeling that the West will never become reconciled to the losses it suffered in Asia and in Eastern Europe and that eventually its actions to recover those areas would lead to a general war.
2. If the United States were openly to commit its air power in Indo-China and simultaneously were to warn Communist China that the appearance of Red Chinese air power in support of Viet Minh would be followed by the bombing of bases in China and a naval blockade of the Chinese mainland, Red China would disregard the warning and commit its air force in Indo-China. The Soviet Union would then step up its military aid to China, sending more aircraft, instructors, materiel, and antiaircraft units.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Communist China might also commit its ground troops following the pattern of the Korean War. The Soviet Union would officially stay out of the action, but would consider the situation as a possible prelude to World War III.

3. If the United States were to bomb Chinese bases and establish a naval blockade of the Chinese mainland, Red China would consider this action to be an act of war and would commit all its resources against the United States. The Soviet Union would increase its aid to China and would send Soviet air units there, and Soviet air and antiaircraft units would engage United States aircraft over Chinese territory. The USSR would still officially stay out of war, but would consider that the situation would be bound to develop into general war. Further Soviet courses of action would then depend on existing military and political developments throughout the world.

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